

¹ D plasmid pIR100 (PTA-4750), *E coli* HB101 with plasmid pK0500 (PTA-4751), *E coli* DH5- α with plasmid pK0505 (PTA-4752).

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

² D 1. (amended four times) A genetically engineered mutant *C. fetus* strain containing a DNA cassette inserted into the coding sequence of a *sapA* homolog of said strain, wherein said DNA cassette encodes a heterologous protein and expression of said DNA cassette results in surface expression of a chimeric protein comprising said heterologous protein.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

³ D 11. (twice amended) The mutant *C. fetus* strain of claim 10, wherein said strain contains a DNA cassette inserted into the coding sequence of a *sapA* homolog of said strain, and expression of said DNA cassette results in surface expression of a chimeric protein comprising said heterologous protein.

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

⁴ D 18. (thrice amended) The mutant *C. fetus* strain of claim 1, wherein said mutant strain contains from about 7 to about 9 *sapA*